

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-6 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In regard to claim 1, the Examiner points out errors in lines 6 and 10. Applicant has now corrected these errors as indicated. Also, Applicant has amended line 9 to remove “in”, which is also unnecessary. In regard to claim 6, the Examiner notes that there is no antecedent basis for “the underside”. Applicant has amended this claim to instead refer to “below”.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent 6,670,566). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner points out that Wang shows a thin switch having a seat 1 with a compartment 11, an elastic element 2, an upper button 31 and a lower button 32. The upper button has a bracing section 314 and a coupling trough 311 for holding the compression section 321 of the lower button. The lower button also includes a ram section 323 located between the compression section and the elastic element.

Applicant submits that claim 1 as amended is not anticipated by this reference. Claim 1 now describes the compression section as being contained within the coupling trough and also describes the ram section as having a smaller surface area than the compression section. This differs from the Wang device where the compression section 321 extends below the coupling trough. Further, the present invention does not include the balancing section 322 shown in Wang. In view of this, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Wang.

Furthermore, Applicant notes that the device shown in Wang is very similar to the prior art device shown in Fig. 2 of the present application. As indicated in column 3, lines 43-46 of Wang, this device is designed to resolve the problems of difficult assembly, unsteady downward compression, and excessive deformation. This is different from the present invention where the purpose is to reduce the total thickness of the switch by changing the configuration of the two buttons and especially so that the device has no jutting section so that the total height of the switch can be reduced. Thus, when comparing Fig. 4a of Wang with Fig. 5a of the present application, it is clearly seen that the compression section of the present invention is much smaller, the thickness of the upper button is much smaller, the thickness of the ram section is much smaller, and that the compression section is completely contained within the coupling trough. All of these act to reduce the overall thickness of the switch which is an important consideration. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, each of these claims cite other features which make these claim additionally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patent relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Dated: August 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000